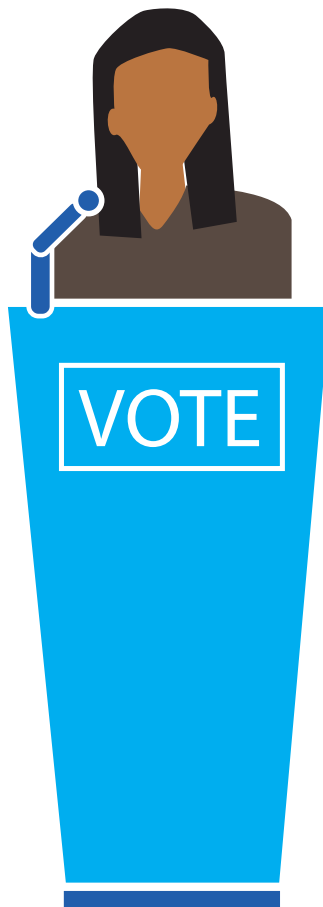
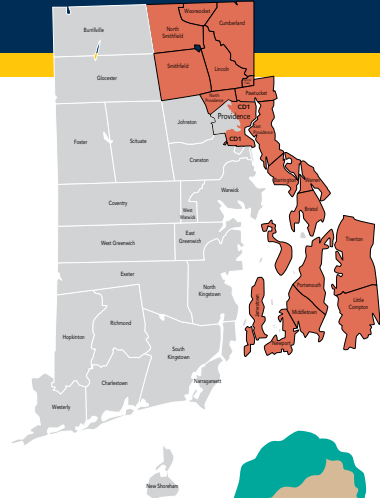


Run for Office Guide

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

Special Election

2023 Rhode Island Guide for Candidates Running for Congressional District 1



This guide was produced by
the Rhode Island Department of State

☎ 401-222-2340

✉ elections@sos.ri.gov

💻 vote.ri.gov

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Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State



Dear Potential Candidate,

I applaud your interest in serving the public as an elected official.

As a former history and civics teacher, I taught students for many years about the importance of being civically engaged, and this is one of the most important principles I bring with me into my role as Secretary of State. Participating in our democracy – whether as a voter, candidate, or elected official – is an essential part of civic engagement.

This digital guide contains all of the information you will need to run for Representative in Congress in Congressional District 1 in the September primary and November special election, including filing deadlines and contact information for your local election officials.

We are happy to provide a hard copy of the guide upon request. If you need additional information, please contact our Elections Division at 401-222-2340, TTY 711 or elections@sos.ri.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregg M. Amore".

Gregg M. Amore
Secretary of State

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NOTE: The determinations in this booklet are a matter of interpretation and are intended solely as a guide. They do not constitute official interpretation of state law. All statutory references are to Title 17 of the General Laws, 1956, as amended, as of December 31, 2022.

Important Candidate Deadlines



May 31	Deadline for candidates to register to vote to be able to run for office. Deadline for candidates to disaffiliate from their political party to run as a candidate from another party.
June 29, 30	Period for candidates to file Declarations of Candidacy. <i>(Deadline to file is no later than 4 p.m. on June 30.)</i>
July 3	Deadline for endorsements to be filed.
No later than July 6	Nomination papers available for pick-up.
July 14	Deadline for all candidates to submit nomination papers to local boards of canvassers.
July 19	Ballot placement lottery for primary and special election.
July 19	Deadline for candidates to file withdrawals of candidacy.
September 5	SPECIAL PRIMARIES
November 7	SPECIAL ELECTION



All candidates must be registered to vote by **May 31, 2023** in order to run for office.

Eligibility to Run for Office

You must be a registered voter in Rhode Island. See chart below for other requirements.

Office	Age	State Residence	U.S. Citizen	Years in Term	# of Terms
U.S. Representative**	25	yes	7 years	2	no limit

** Candidates for U.S. Representative must live in Rhode Island, not necessarily the district in which they are running.

Party Eligibility

Affiliated candidates:

If you plan on running as a party candidate, you must be a member of that particular party (Democrat or Republican) or unaffiliated at the time of filing your Declaration of Candidacy.

Independent/unaffiliated candidates:

You are eligible to file a Declaration of Candidacy as an independent (also known as unaffiliated) candidate if, at the time of filing the Declaration of Candidacy, you are a registered voter in Rhode Island.

The following chart may help you understand your options:

You are eligible to run as a:			
If you are registered as a:	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Democrat	Yes	No*	Yes
Republican	No*	Yes	Yes
Independent	Yes	Yes	Yes



* If you belong to one party and want to run as a candidate for another party, you must change your party at least 30 days prior to the date you will file your Declaration of Candidacy. **You must file a disaffiliation no later than May 31, 2023.**



Deadline to file a disaffiliation is
May 31, 2023.

Disaffiliation

What is disaffiliation?

When you no longer wish to be a member of a particular political party, you must sign a form to “disaffiliate” from that party. Forms are available at the local boards of canvassers. You can also disaffiliate at vote.ri.gov.

Do I have to disaffiliate?

If you want to run as a candidate for a party other than the one to which you are registered, the following chart may help you understand your filing options:

If you are registered as a:	Are you required to disaffiliate if you wish to run as a:		
	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Democrat	No	Yes	No
Republican	Yes	No	No
Independent	No*	No*	No

* By declaring to be a candidate in a primary you will then become a member of that party.



You must disaffiliate at least 30 days before you file your Declaration of Candidacy.

When is the deadline to disaffiliate?

If you file your Declaration of Candidacy on:	You must file your disaffiliation, if necessary, no later than:
June 29 th June 30 th	May 30 th May 31 st

Where can I disaffiliate?

You can disaffiliate at vote.ri.gov or you can file your disaffiliation by completing a new voter registration form, keeping in mind that a mailed registration form must be postmarked by the above deadlines.

If mailing or dropping off your form, it must be filed with the local board of canvassers in the city or town where you are registered to vote.



Your Declaration of Candidacy must be filed on **June 29 or June 30, 2023.**

Filing a Declaration of Candidacy

Declaration of Candidacy:

The Declaration of Candidacy is the document you sign to start the process of becoming a candidate. You “declare” yourself as a candidate for a particular office and if you wish to run as a party candidate, you also “declare” yourself to be a member of that party.

Do I need to file a Declaration of Candidacy to run for office?

Yes. All candidates for public offices must file a Declaration of Candidacy.

Where do I get a Declaration of Candidacy form?

The Declaration of Candidacy form is available on our website at vote.ri.gov.

The Declaration of Candidacy form is also available at:

- › Department of State’s Elections Division. See address in chart below.

How do I file my Declaration of Candidacy form?

Complete the form online and print it out. You must then sign it and deliver or mail the form.



Declarations of Candidacy must contain original signatures. Your completed form cannot be faxed or emailed.

Where do I file my Declaration of Candidacy form?

Candidates for:	File your Declaration of Candidacy at:
Federal Public Office: Representative in Congress	Department of State’s Elections Division, 148 W. River Street, Providence, RI 02904.

If I am an independent/unaffiliated voter, and file a Declaration of Candidacy as a party candidate, does that automatically make me a member of that party?

Yes.

Example: If you are an independent/unaffiliated voter and file a Declaration of Candidacy as a Democrat, you are automatically recorded as a member of the Democrat Party. Filing a Declaration of Candidacy is sufficient to bind you to that party even if you do not circulate nomination papers or you do not vote in the primary.

Endorsements

What is an endorsement?

This is the process whereby party officials designate a person to be the candidate representing their party in a primary, and if no primary, in the special election.

Who makes the endorsements and where are they filed?

For the office of:	Endorsement by:	Endorsements are filed at:	Required signatures	Deadline to be filed
Representative in Congress	State Committee	Department of State's Elections Division	See RIGL 17-12-4	Not later than July 3 rd



Anyone other than candidates picking up nomination papers from the Department of State's Elections Division must have written authorization from the candidate.

Nomination Papers

What are nomination papers?

Nomination papers are the forms on which you will obtain valid signatures, which are signatures of registered voters who are eligible to vote for the office that you are seeking. In order to be on the ballot, you will need to obtain 500 valid signatures on your nomination papers.

Who needs nomination papers?

All candidates for federal office need nomination papers.

How many valid signatures are required on nomination papers in order to qualify?

If you are running for:	Number of valid signatures required:
Representative in Congress	500

When and where do I pick up my nomination papers?

Nomination papers will be available for pick up no later than **July 6, 2023**. The Elections Division will notify you if they can be picked up at an earlier time.

Representative in Congress: You must obtain your nomination papers from the Department of State's Elections Division, 148 W. River Street, Providence, RI.

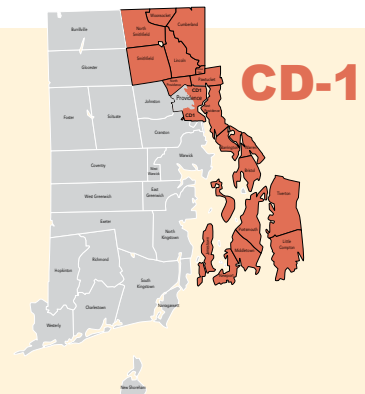
Who can sign my nomination papers?

ANY registered voter who is eligible and resides in Congressional District 1.

Bristol County: Barrington, Bristol, and Warren.

Newport County: Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, and Tiverton.

Providence County: Central Falls, Cumberland, East Providence, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Smithfield, Woonsocket, and parts of Providence.



Does the signer have to be a member of the same political party listed on the nomination paper?

The voter DOES NOT need to be a member of the political party listed on the nomination paper.

Example: A registered Democrat can sign the nomination papers of a Democratic candidate, Republican candidate, or an independent/unaffiliated candidate.



Signers on a nomination paper must be from the city or town listed at the top of the nomination paper.

Does it make a difference which of my papers a voter signs?

Yes. On each nomination paper there is a space for you to indicate the city/town in which the signers are registered voters.

Example: A registered voter in Providence must sign a nomination paper that lists “Providence” on the paper. This is the paper that you will return to the Providence Board of Canvassers. The Providence Board of Canvassers will certify signatures on this paper. If a Woonsocket voter signs a Providence nomination paper, that signature will not be certified since the nomination paper will be reviewed only by the Providence Board of Canvassers.

If a voter signs a nomination paper of a party candidate, does that automatically make the voter a member of that party?

No. The act of signing nomination papers does not make the voter a member of that political party.

How many papers can a person sign?

There is no restriction on the number of nomination papers a person can sign for federal candidates. However, your signature can only be counted once for each candidate.

When and where do I return my nomination papers?

Nomination papers for:	Must be returned by:	Must be returned to:
Congressional District 1 Candidates	July 14, 2023 at 4 p.m.	Local Board of Canvassers in the city or town listed on the nomination paper

How do I know if I qualified for ballot placement?

Candidates can check our website at vote.ri.gov. As certified nomination papers are received from the local boards of canvassers, we will enter the number of valid signatures for each candidate into our database.

This information will be updated by the end of each day during the nomination paper certification process (July 6th through July 18th) with the final posting available on **July 18, 2023**. Remember, nomination papers for all candidates are due to the local board of canvassers by 4 p.m. on **July 14, 2023**.

Withdrawal of Candidacy

If I file a Declaration of Candidacy, can I decide not to run?

Yes, but you must file a withdrawal of candidacy.

When and where do I file a withdrawal of candidacy?

If you filed as a:	File a withdrawal by:	File a withdrawal with:
Party nominee or independent/unaffiliated candidate for federal office	Not later than July 19, 2023	Department of State's Elections Division

Can I withdraw if I am the party's nominee for the office that I am seeking?

Yes. If you are the party's nominee for the office that you are seeking (i.e. you are the candidate that will appear on the November ballot for your party), you can withdraw.

Keep in mind that you have to withdraw by **September 8, 2023** in order for the party to name another candidate to fill the vacancy.

Ballot Placement - Primary

Will there be a primary for the office that I am seeking?

A primary is necessary when two or more individuals from the same political party qualify for ballot placement.

There will be no primary for the office you seek if:

- 1- No one else filed a valid Declaration of Candidacy as a party candidate from the same party;
- 2- No one else filed timely nomination papers containing the requisite number of signatures under the same political party; or
- 3- The other candidate(s) who qualified under the same political party withdrew according to state law.

If I run as a candidate for public office, when does my name appear on the primary ballot?

Names of federal candidates for public office where there is a primary appear on the **September 5, 2023** primary ballot.

How will my name appear on the primary ballot?

Your name will be printed on the ballot as it appears on the voting list.

How is my ballot placement determined if I am a candidate in a primary?

The endorsed candidate will appear first directly under the title of office that is being sought and will have an asterisk (*) next to their name.

The unendorsed candidate will follow on the ballot. If there is more than one unendorsed candidate, they will be listed on the ballot in the order chosen by a lottery conducted by the Department of State.

When are the lotteries conducted for ballot placement for the primary?

The Department of State will conduct a lottery on **July 19, 2023 at 5 p.m.**, at the Elections Division located at 148 W. River St. in Providence, to determine ballot placement for unendorsed federal and state party candidates for the primary ballots.

Ballot Placement - Special Election

How will my name appear on the general election ballot?

Your name will be printed on the ballot as it appears on the voting list. Party candidates will be listed on the ballot along with the name of their political party. Independent/unaffiliated candidates will be listed on the ballot along with the name of their “political principle, movement or organization” in small print or the word “Independent” when no “political principle, movement or organization” is listed on the candidate’s Declaration of Candidacy.

How is my ballot placement determined if I am a candidate in the special election?

The order in which the political parties appear on the general election ballot is determined by a lottery conducted by the Department of State. The order in which independent/unaffiliated candidates appear on the ballot beneath the party candidates is also determined by a lottery conducted by the Department of State.

When are the lotteries conducted for ballot placement for the special election?

The Department of State will conduct a lottery on **July 19, 2023 at 5 p.m.** at the Elections Division located at 148 W. River St. in Providence, to determine ballot placement of party candidates and independent/unaffiliated candidates for the general election.

Election Day Activities

Are there any restrictions on activities at the polling places on Election Day?

Rhode Island General Laws, Section 17-19-49 currently prohibits the display or distribution of any poster, paper, circular or document that would aid, injure or defeat any candidate for public office or any political party or any question on the ballot.

This law prohibits such display within the voting place or within fifty (50) feet of the entrance or entrances to the building in which voting is taking place at any primary or election.

Election officials, that is, wardens, moderators, clerks and bi-partisan supervisors, assigned to a polling place are also prohibited from displaying or wearing any political party button, badge or other device that is intended to aid, injure or defeat the candidacy of any person for public office or any question on the ballot or to intimidate or influence any voter.

The State Board of Elections has oversight of the conduct of elections at polling places and that office should be contacted if you have any specific questions as to what campaigning is allowed. Their contact information can be found on page 15.

Local Boards of Canvassers Contact Information

*Any mailing MUST be addressed to the attention of “Board of Canvassers.”

Barrington Town Hall

283 County Rd. 02806
247-1900 x1

Bristol Town Hall

10 Court St. 02809
253-7000 x132

Central Falls City Hall

580 Broad St. 02863
727-7400

Cumberland Town Hall

45 Broad St. 02864
475-9040

East Providence City Hall

145 Taunton Ave. 02914
435-7502

Jamestown Town Hall

93 Narragansett Ave. 02835
423-9801

Lincoln Town Hall

100 Old River Rd.
P.O. Box 100 02865
333-1140

Little Compton Town Hall

40 Commons
P.O. Box 226 02837
635-4400

Middletown Town Hall

350 East Main Rd. 02842
849-5540

Newport City Hall

43 Broadway 02840
845-5384

North Providence Town Hall

2000 Smith St. 02911
232-0900 x230

North Smithfield Town Hall

83 Greene St. 02896
767-2200 x504

Pawtucket City Hall

137 Roosevelt Ave. 02860
722-1637

Portsmouth Town Hall

2200 East Main Rd. 02871
683-3157

Providence City Hall

25 Dorrance St.
Room 102 02903
680-5000

Smithfield Town Hall

64 Farnum Pike
Esmond 02917
233-1000 x112

Tiverton Town Hall

343 Highland Rd. 02878
625-6703

Warren Town Hall

514 Main St. 02885
245-7340 x4

Woonsocket City Hall

169 Main St.
P.O. Box B 02895
767-9223

State Elections and Political Party Offices Contact Information

› Department of State

Elections Division

148 W. River St., Providence, RI 02904

401-222-2340

› Board of Elections

2000 Plainfield Pike, Cranston, RI 02921

401-222-2345

› Rhode Island Democratic Party

200 Metro Center Blvd., Suite 2, Warwick, RI 02886

401-272-3367

› Rhode Island Republican Party

1800 Post Rd., Suite 17-I, Warwick, RI 02886

401-732-8282

Federal Election Commission

All candidates for federal offices need to file with the Federal Election Commission

An individual running for federal office must register and file financial reports when he or she raises or spends more than \$5,000 in contributions or expenditures.

Federal Election Commission

Phone: 1-800-424-9530

Website: www.fec.gov

United States Postal Service (USPS) Contact Information

The United States Postal Service provides extensive information to assist you with your political campaign mail on its website (www.usps.com/business/political-mail.htm). For mailpiece design assistance, please contact the MDA Customer Service Help Desk at (855)-593-6093 or by email at MDA@usps.gov.

Department of State's Website

The following information concerning the 2023 special election will be found at: vote.ri.gov

- › How to Run for Office Guide - English & Spanish
- › Declaration of Candidacy Form
- › Qualified Federal Candidates: Starting June 29, 2023, daily updates of federal candidates who filed and/or qualified for ballot placement
- › Sample ballots
- › Find your polling place
- › Mail Ballot Applications

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1

Special Election

Are you a CD 1 Voter?

Visit vote.ri.gov

Voters can determine if they are a Congressional District 1 voter by clicking “View/Update My Voter Record” and viewing their district information.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR VOTERS

August 6, 2023

Voter registration deadline for the primary

August 15, 2023

Mail ballot application deadline for the primary

August 16 - September 5, 2023

Early voting period for the primary

September 5, 2023

Special primary

October 8, 2023

Voter registration deadline for the special election

October 17, 2023

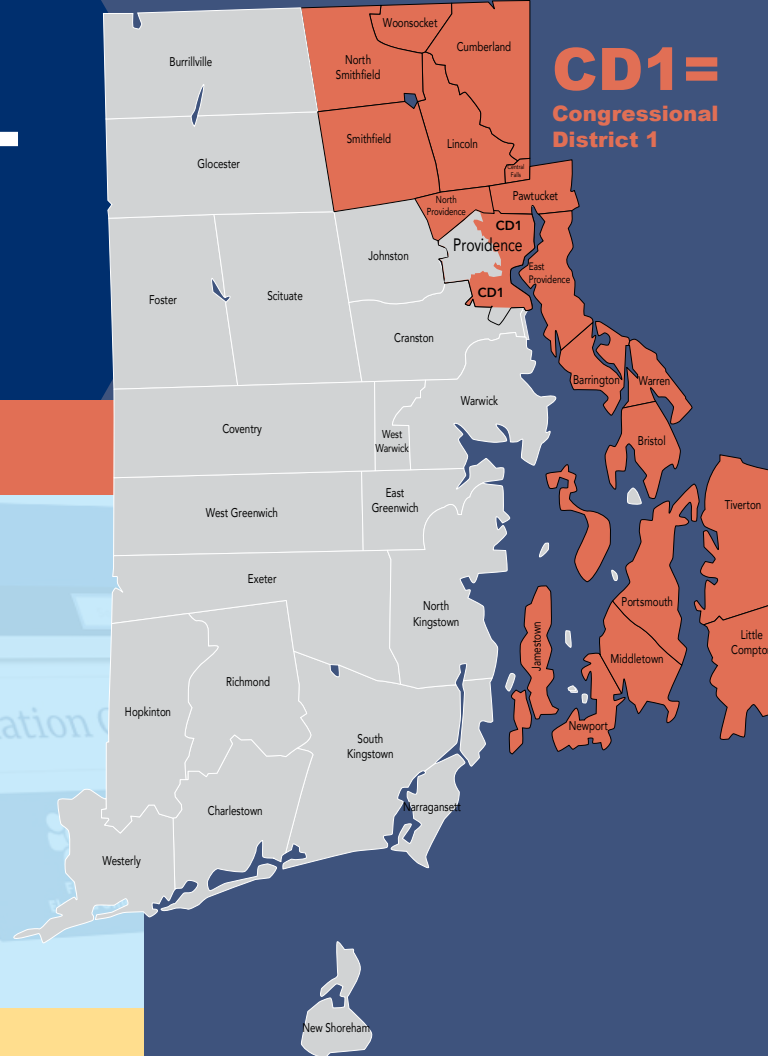
Mail ballot application deadline for the special election

October 18 - November 6, 2023

Early voting period for the special election

November 7, 2023

Special election



Get ready to vote!

Bristol County: Barrington, Bristol, and Warren.

Newport County: Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, and Tiverton.

Providence County: Central Falls, Cumberland, East Providence, Lincoln, North Providence, North Smithfield, Pawtucket, Smithfield, Woonsocket, and parts of Providence.



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